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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Firearms Protection Act (HR 1036)

Washington, D.C. --

On April 9th, the United States House of Representatives passed a piece of legislation that I believe underlines the personal responsibility that our country is founded upon.

I joined with 284 of my colleagues in the House to pass the "Protection of Lawful Commerce In Arms Act" (H.R. 1036) which addresses the growing problem of lawsuits, filed with the intention of driving the firearms industry out of business by attempting to hold gun, ammunition manufacturers and dealers liable for the criminal misuse of their lawful products by third parties.

Re-read that paragraph again. I know it's hard to believe but some in our society think that others should be held responsible for criminal acts they commit. My belief, reflected by my vote to protect lawful firearm commerce last week, is that this country was founded upon personal responsibility. That is, one is responsible for their own actions.

Many of these lawsuits have been filed in state and federal courts and demand both money damages and sweeping restrictions on interstate commerce in firearms and ammunition. They threaten not only the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans, but the ability of the firearms industry to provide for our national defense by supplying firearms to police and law enforcement agencies.

H.R. 1036 provides that lawsuits against licensed manufacturers and sellers of firearms or ammunition may not be brought if they are based on criminal or unlawful use of the product by a third party. Furthermore, the bill only protects legitimate businesses that comply with federal, state and local gun laws. It has no effect on true liability cases for defective products, breach of contract or warranty, negligent entrustment or other causes that are not related to third-party criminal misuse of guns or ammunition.

I have always pledged and will continue to protect the rights of lawful abiding Americans to own a gun. Our constitution grants this right and our leaders must continue to ensure it.

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